Amendment in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

†3674. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has invited suggestion from the States in this regard;

(d) if so, how many States have given their suggestions; and

(e) the details of the States which have not yet forwarded their suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) The suggestions for amendments to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 were invited from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which were received from Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, Delhi, Lakshwadeep and Puducherry. No final decision has, however, been taken to amend the Act.

Scholarships to OBC students in Maharashtra

3675. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government had submitted a proposal to sanction and release the Central Assistance under post-matric scholarship to other backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how much amount Government proposes to release during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) No proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for releasing central assistance under Post-matric Scholarship Scheme for OBC students during 2008-09 has been received so far. The budgetary allocation of Rs. 134 crores during the current financial year under the Scheme will be released to States/UTs including the State of Maharashtra on receipt of proposals from the State Governments, submission of utilization certificates of grants released in the previous years and provision made for the committed liability by the States/UTs.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.